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TORONTO • MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2009 metronews.ca

Celebrity Buzz

Gibson drama deepens

pg 26

Tax fab not grab

Grit MPPs forced to talk up harmonization of GST/PST

Spooked by a brewing public backlash over Ontario's move to a new harmonized sales tax, the Liberals are scrambling.

The combined sales tax doesn't come in to effect until next year, but already is proving to be such a bust with Ontarians that Premier Dalton McGuinty is giving ministers new marching orders to go out and aggressively sell it, the Star has learned.

McGuinty is forcing his cabinet to go on a communications blitz to sell the tax changes against the backdrop of dissent in the Liberal ranks.

Last month, the premier and Finance Minister Dwight Duncan secretly inked a deal with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty to blend the provincial sales tax and the GST without the knowledge of cabinet ministers or Liberal MPPs.

Fallout from the revamped tax was evident last week as MPPs returned to Queen's Park.

A week off in their ridings, listening to constituents' concerns, left some Liberal members already worried about the 2011 election.

In debate on the budget in the House, Progressive Conservative MPP Peter Shurman struck a nerve when he heckled Liberal MPPs who were trying to defend the blended tax.

"You know you're getting the same calls we are," thundered Shurman, leaving some Grit MPPs uncomfortably staring at their shoes.

> **"You know you're getting the same calls we are."**
> Peter Shurman, Conservative MPP

While Tory and NDP MPPs can deflect angry constituents by opposing the tax reform, Liberal MPPs have been placed in the awkward position of being forced to defend higher prices for consumers.

Publicly, ministers and backbenchers point out that a federal Conservative government is the Liberals' partner in the scheme, but in private some complain they could pay a political price for Ottawa's initiative.

They note the $4.3 billion in federal funding McGuinty received in exchange for harmonizing the taxes could be long forgotten by the October 2011 election.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Parade Celebrating Sikh Khalsa Day

KEITH BEATY/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

More than 70,000 participants walked from the CNE grounds to Nathan Philips Square yesterday during the annual Sikh Khalsa Day parade celebrating Sikh New Year. Next Sunday another parade is planned from the Malton Gurdwara to the Rexdale Gurdwara.

Software glitch forces Feds to pile hard drives

OTTAWA Canada's tax agency has been forced to stockpile hundreds of used hard drives containing sensitive taxpayer information because it can't erase them.

About 1,000 obsolete devices have been locked away at offices across the country as technicians search for software that can wipe them clean.

The problem began in October 2007 when the RCMP warned all federal departments that standard disk-erasing software, previously sanctioned by the police force, was no longer reliable.

The RCMP's technical security branch found the software left traces of sensitive data on newer drives that can be read by modern devices, a sticky problem known as "data remanence."

The branch cautioned departments to find alternative, more reliable software.

But an audit last year at the Canada Revenue Agency found that despite the warning, officials did not come up with a better electronic eraser — creating a growing pile of hard drives that can't be wiped properly.

Investigators noted that some offices were physically destroying hard drives to get around the problem.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

World pg 8

Sri Lanka 'no' to Tamil ceasefire

Entertainment pg 24

No sizzle in Obsession

Please recycle

Mexican swine flu piggybacks into Canada

EPIDEMIC Ontario health officials are maintaining a vigilant watch for cases of confirmed swine flu in the province but, as fears of a possible global pandemic continue to spread, the only cases to emerge so far in Canada are in Nova Scotia and British Columbia.

All six Canadian cases — four at a Windsor, N.S., school, two in B.C.'s lower mainland — were linked to Mexican travel. Unlike Mexico, where the influenza has killed at least 103 people and sparked fears of a pandemic, the Canadian cases were so mild they did not require hospitalization.

But as Canadian health officials tried to ease fears yesterday, they also warned against complacency.

"The swine flu symptoms seen in Canada have thankfully been relatively mild and the patients are recovering. These are Canada's first confirmed cases but … these cases are likely not the last we'll see in Canada," federal Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq told an Ottawa press conference yesterday.

> **"The swine flu symptoms seen in Canada have thankfully been relatively mild."**
> Leona Aglukkaq, Health Minister

Still, passengers returning from Mexico at Pearson airport yesterday wore masks aboard their flights and were greeted by Canadian border guards who also wore masks and gloves.

Yesterday afternoon, Ontario health officials joined the global scramble to determine whether patients complaining of flu-like symptoms had contracted the swine influenza. According to Steve Erwin, spokesperson for Minister of Health David Caplan, they were investigating 11 possible cases across Ontario. By yesterday evening, however, provincial public health officials said no cases had been confirmed.

As a result of the flu outbreak, several airlines — including Air Canada and WestJet — were waiving fees for passengers who wanted to postpone or change flights to Mexico City.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Cops search for shooting victim

Police are searching for a victim following a shooting outside a Scarborough nightclub early yesterday. A report of gunfire was received at around 2 a.m. Police went to the Tropics nightclub at Kennedy Road and Ellesmere Avenue where they found casings, but no sign of a victim. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

Workers vote for Chrysler deal

An overwhelming majority of workers at Chrysler Canada have accepted a labour concession deal reached between their union and the beleaguered automaker that will save the company $240 million a year in hopes of protecting their jobs. The deal was approved by 87 per cent of the thousands who turned out in Toronto, Mississauga, and Windsor to vote over the weekend. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Tomorrow's Metro

Health

Is your spa hygienic? Metro finds out how to know if your spa is clean or not.

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Video Health officials caution Canadians not to dismiss the threat of swine flu at **metronews.ca/canada.**

Blogs The It's Called Football show discusses the sudden departure of TFC head coach John Carver, right, with Ives Galarcep of ESPN.

Lotteries

Friday, April 24
Lotto Super 7: 5, 6, 17, 21, 33, 40 & 41. Bonus 1.
Saturday, April 25
Lotto 6/49: 1, 11, 17, 29, 31 & 46. Bonus 35.
Sunday, April 26
Ontario Pick 3: 5 7 1; **Ontario Pick 4:** 1 7 3 2
Encore: 0262069;
Daily Keno: 3, 4, 12, 14, 20, 25, 26, 34, 37, 38, 39, 41, 43, 55, 58, 59, 63, 65, 69, 70
These results are not official.

News in brief

ATTACK Two men were taken to hospital yesterday after a stranger attacked them with a knife. The victims were near Front Street West and Bay Street around 3 a.m. yesterday when a man approached them and slashed them on their arms. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TONY BOCK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The intersection of St. Clair Avenue and Midland Road was closed yesterday morning as Toronto Hydro crews replaced high voltage lines blown down by high winds the previous evening.

Power restored to most after storm

100,000 homes across province in the dark

Ann Mayall was about to sign the paperwork to buy a new car when her hopes were crushed — literally.

A light stand toppled onto the roof of a Honda CR-V she was about to buy during Saturday's fierce storm.

"I couldn't believe our bad luck, our really bad luck," said Mayall, who was at the dealership at the time. "It crushed the whole thing.

"The light was totally enveloped over the car like some sort of space-age movie."

Hydro crews spent yesterday cleaning up after the storm where record gusts of wind toppled power lines and knocked out electricity for more than 100,000 homes across southern Ontario.

Throughout the province, power lines were downed by heavy winds, including a gust of 115 kilometres an hour, the fastest recorded in more than 30 years at Pearson International Airport, according to Environment Canada meteorologist Sarah Wong.

In Toronto, 16,000 customers were without power at the height of the storm. By yesterday evening, power was restored to all but 700 customers.

"Toronto Hydro crews made significant progress restoring power across the city overnight," said spokesperson Vanessa Nero.

On Spring Garden Avenue in North York the wind toppled a pine tree, knocking out power overnight Saturday.

Margaret Dey, who lives just down the block from where the tree fell, ran outside during the storm to gather her leaf bags that were blowing around in the wind.

A passerby on a motorcycle stopped to tell her how the tree came down just as he passed by it.

"I couldn't believe it," she said. "It took out the pole and transformer."

Dey said a live wire was sparking, but when she called Toronto Hydro to report the outage, the lines were too busy for her call to be taken. A neighbour called the fire department, which closed off the street. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Hospitalized

- One man was taken to Sunnybrook hospital Saturday with serious head injuries after a flying 20-kilogram sign, ripped loose by the storm's 100 km/h gusts, struck him near Kennedy Road and Sheppard Avenue East.

Youth honoured as hero by police

AWARD At first, 12-year-old Andre Giardino thought the man dressed in black standing outside his local Sobeys supermarket was merely suspicious.

But when the man pulled out a knife and followed customers into the store, Giardino knew he was dangerous.

"Once I saw the knife I was shocked. I told my uncle because I was worried someone was really going to get hurt," Giardino said.

The boy's uncle immediately alerted the store manager, who called police. The knife-wielding man was arrested and found to be on a probation order.

It was Giardino's quick thinking last May that earned the Grade 6 student a Community Member Award yesterday at Toronto Police headquarters.

A total of 37 people were granted the award, which recognizes "unselfish assistance rendered to the service or for an initiative or innovation that impacted positively on the image or operation of the service." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TONY BOCK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Andre Giardino, 12, was given a Community Member Award yesterday. He had spotted a man in a store with a knife.

Waterfront tabbed for Pan Am athletes' village

DEVELOPMENT If Toronto wins the bid to host the 2015 Pan Am Games, a new athletes' village planned for the West Don Lands could spur long-awaited development in the heart of the waterfront.

The village would include housing for 8,500 athletes and officials, a welcome centre, dining hall, transportation hub and temporary training facilities, including a 50-metre pool, 400-metre track area and cycling trails.

"If Toronto is chosen to host these games, this new neighbourhood will emerge faster, and it will be a legacy of the games," said Infrastructure Minister George Smitherman yesterday, as he announced plans to create 2,100 housing units. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Teen aims to get brothers back

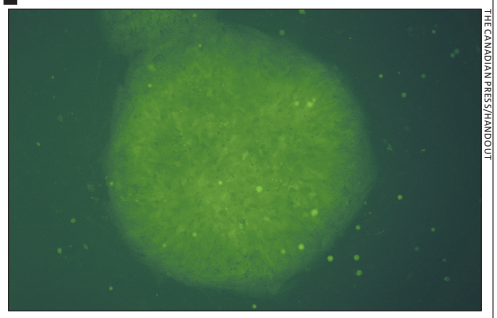
LEGAL A Mississauga teenager has brokered a deal between his warring parents that could see his younger brothers removed from foster care and most of his family reunited by the weekend.

Both parents agreed to the seven-point plan — which calls for all three brothers to live with their mother for 100 days and not be forced to undergo treatment for parental alienation — during a meeting this weekend that left even veteran divorce lawyers in tears. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Cops need help after man shot
Police are seeking help after a man was sent to hospital following a drive-by shooting near Jane Street and Trethewey Drive Friday evening. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local researchers light up stem cells

Scientists have made a breakthrough involving a method that turns stem cells a fluorescent green colour for study in the laboratory, which is like having a "spotlight" to help differentiate them from other cells.


THE CANADIAN PRESS/HANDOUT

An image of a stem cell is shown in this handout photo. Scientists have made a breakthrough involving a method that turns stem cells a fluorescent green colour for study in the laboratory.

They've managed to get the fluorescent green to turn off when the stem cells, sometimes described as the building blocks of life, go on to become nerve cells, according to Canadian research published yesterday in the journal Nature Methods.

Dr. James Ellis, the principal investigator of the study led by Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children, says researchers looking at thousands of cells on a petri dish normally try to recognize stem cells by the shape of the colony, which usually has a fairly rounded shape with a distinct edge for the human stem cells. Other cells are "sort of growing in a loose sheet," he explained.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TTC picks Bombardier to build new streetcars

TRANSIT In what's described as the biggest municipal contract in Canadian history, the Toronto Transit Commission has chosen Bombardier Inc. to supply 204 new streetcars for more than $1.2 billion.

The procurement recommendation from the staff of the country's largest transit authority envisages spending $993 million for the streetcars, plus $293.1 million for spare parts, options and other items, a total of $1.29 billion including taxes. The commission will vote today on whether to approve the purchase.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Every spring, Sheridan celebrates our students' creativity with a series of exhibits showcasing their work. Check out one or more of these shows and find out why so many consider Sheridan's School of Animation, Arts & Design to be Canada's finest arts school.

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Bachelor of Design
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http://artsfestival.sheridaninstitute.ca

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Owen Sound hospital getting back to normal

An Owen Sound, Ont. hospital managing an outbreak of antibiotic-resistant bacteria will be resuming standard operations today. Six patients were carrying the VRE bacteria a week ago, but as of Friday, the related outbreak was deemed over. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Soldier repatriated

The body of a Canadian soldier who died in Afghanistan has been returned to Canadian soil. Maj. Michelle Mendes, a 30-year-old intelligence officer based in Ottawa, was found dead Thursday in her quarters at the Kandahar base. The military says her death is under investigation, adding enemy action has been ruled out. THE CANADIAN PRESS

American TV show mentions missing girl

WOODSTOCK Victoria Stafford's father says he is glad the case of his missing daughter was on the America's Most Wanted.

Victoria Stafford

The show aired a brief clip about the missing eight-year-old girl from Woodstock, Ont., on Saturday night.

It was just a few seconds long, but Rodney Stafford says what matters is that the story has spread further and so many more have seen her face.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Swine flu hits Canada

Canadian health officials are rushing to contain the spread of swine flu through human contact after at least a half-dozen cases were confirmed in Nova Scotia and British Columbia.

Cases in both provinces were linked to Mexican travel — but unlike the deadly outbreak in that country, the illnesses in Nova Scotia and B.C. patients were so mild that none required hospitalization.

Federal Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq told an Ottawa news conference that all the Canadians affected are recovering. But she also warned that "these cases are likely not the last we'll see in Canada."

David Butler-Jones, the chief public health officer for the federal government, also cautioned against complacency.

The fact that only mild cases have been reported so far "doesn't mean we won't see either some more severe illness or potentially deaths," said Butler-Jones.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MORE COVERAGE PAGE 6

CSIS mistakes 'disconcerting'

SPIES The Canadian Security Intelligence Service makes a "disconcerting" number of mistakes in applications for eavesdropping warrants, raising potential concerns about liberties and privacy, says a watchdog over the spy agency.

In a top-secret report, CSIS Inspector General Eva Plunkett criticizes the agency for failing to comply with policy, a lack of written documentation on important matters and gaps in the service rules.

Plunkett said in an interview the spy service hasn't moved quickly enough to create up-to-date guidelines for an era when it is operating around the world against terrorism, not just keeping an eye on spies at home.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Eva Plunkett, Inspector General of CSIS.

News in brief

JUSTICE Ottawa is withholding evidence in an anti-sealing case that is set to go to trial today, an environmental activist says.

HEALTH Canada's emergency room doctors say an incident where staff at a Saskatchewan hospital called an ambulance to help a man lying just outside their doors is not a surprise, but a sign of a bigger problem. THE CANADIAN PRESS

INFORMATION FEATURE

Relationships tricky for kids, too

When a relationship turns sour, sometimes it's best to get help and get away, says counsellor Shannon Freud.

DATING Abuse, betrayal and confusion can happen in any relationship but when those things happen to kids, the anxiety and pain can feel all too difficult to bear.

Shannon Freud, 32, works as a counsellor at Kids Help Phone and says for many kids relationships are a difficult sea to navigate because their feelings can be new, untested and uncertain.

"The teenage years are a time when kids are trying to figure out what it means to be in a relationship and how they feel about being in a relationship. It's definitely something that's very concerning for a kid," Freud said.

Contact

- Kids Help Phone can be reached at 1-800-668-6868.

Whether it's a caller asking if it's normal for a boyfriend to call her verbally abusive names or a kid trying to decipher why a relationship doesn't feel right, Freud hears from many kids who suffer because they just don't have the same life experiences as adults to draw on when identifying and solving relationship issues.

"The more relationships an individual has, the more they learn about how to communicate in one. Kids really need to have that life experience to learn what works and what doesn't in relationships," Freud said.

Freud says difficult or abusive relationships in the teenage world often mirror those in the adult world, leaving many kids without the tools they need to cope.

"We often see the same issues and kids might be unsure of how to express themselves," she said.

Helping kids resolve their relationship issues is particularly crucial in situations of verbal or emotional abuse because such behaviour could quickly turn violent.

"If two people are in a relationship and they're verbally and emotionally abusive to one another, there's always the chance things could get physically abusive at some point," Freud said.

In cases of serious abuse, both physical and emotional, sometimes the best answer is to get help and keep away.

"If you leave the situation, that cuts out an opportunity to hurt you. They can't hit you if you're not there and the longer you stay in an abusive relationship, the harder it is to get out," Freud said.

The first step for many kids in dealing with dating and relationship issues is to speak to someone like a counsellor at Kids Help Phone who has the life experience and tools necessary to help. All calls are confidential and counsellors encourage kids only to talk about what they want to talk about, no matter how minor (or major) their problems may be.

"Kids can call us and talk about what they're going through and what they're feeling in their relationships. We're here for them 24/7 to help them figure all that stuff out," Freud said.

You take 4,000 steps a day. On May 3rd, use them to help kids talk.

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walkforkidshelpphone.ca

Insurgents attack African Union peacekeeper bases in Somalia

Insurgents attacked two African Union peacekeepers' bases in the Somali capital, and a witness says at least three people were killed. A Burundi peacekeeping spokesman says peacekeepers repelled the attackers after a two-hour exchange of gunfire. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Pope names five new saints

Pope Benedict is canonizing five new saints, including Portugal's 14th-century independence leader and an Italian monk, Bernardo Tolomei, who died of the plague after tending to the sick. The only non-Italian in the lineup is Nuno Alvares Pereira, who led Portuguese forces to defeat the Castilians at the Battle of Aljubarrota in 1385, securing the independence of Portugal. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Swine flu fear spreads globally

Nations plan quarantine

Countries planned quarantines, tightened rules on pork imports and tested airline passengers for fevers as global health officials tried to battle a deadly strain of swine flu.

Nations from New Zealand to France reported suspected cases and governments including China, Russia and Taiwan began planning to put anyone with symptoms of the virus under quarantine.

Others were increasing screening of pigs and pork imports from the Americas or banning them outright — despite health officials' reassurances it was safe to eat cooked pork.

Some nations issued travel warnings for Mexico, where authorities have closed schools, museums, libraries and theatres in a bid to contain the outbreak.

Mexican health officials say the flu has killed up to 103 people and probably sickened about 1,600 since April 13.

In the United States, there have been at least 11 confirmed cases of swine flu in California, Texas and Kansas. All recovered or are recovering. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Loan

- The World Bank is providing Mexico with $205 million US in loans to help it deal with the outbreak of swine flu.

DARIO LOPEZ-MILLS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Residents wearing surgical masks wait outside the Metropolitan Cathedral in Mexico City yesterday. Churches stood empty in the heavily Catholic city after services were cancelled.

Favourite son North Korea's next leader?

SIGN The third son, 26-year-old Kim Jong Un, of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il has been assigned to the country's all-powerful National Defence Commission, a possible sign he is being groomed as his father's successor, a news report said yesterday.

Kim has three known sons by two women but has not publicly chosen any of them as his successor. Speculation on who is to succeed the 67-year-old leader has grown since Kim was reported to have suffered a stroke in August.

Little is known about Kim's youngest son, except that he studied at the International School of Berne in Switzerland. Kim Jong Il's former sushi chef says in a 2003 memoir the son looks and acts just like his father and is the leader's favourite. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Group threatens to kill U.K. tourist

AFRICA Al-Qaida in North Africa said in a statement posted yesterday on an Islamist website that it will execute a British tourist held since late January if the British government does not free extremist Muslim preacher Abu Qatada in 20 days.

Abu Qatada, a Palestinian-Jordanian accused of links with militant groups, was released in 2005 but has been re-arrested and is pending deportation to Jordan. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On April 30th, three of Toronto's top radio stations will be handing their mics over to a bunch of kids.

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News in brief

SHOOTING A University of Georgia professor suspected in the deaths of his ex-wife and two others outside a community theatre near campus left his children in the car when the shooting happened. A manhunt was on for 57-year-old George Zinkhan, who a neighbour said dropped the children off with him and left, saying there was an emergency.

OFFENSIVE The Pakistani army says it has launched a new offensive against militants in a northwest district that neighbours the beleaguered Swat Valley and Afghanistan. The operation comes just days after the Taliban, who largely control the Swat Valley, entered into another district, Buner, 95 kilometres from the Pakistani capital. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Barely hiking **Swiss frown on fad**

KEYSTONE/FINN O'HARA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

People in Appenzell Inner Rhodes, Switzerland, vote by a show of hands yesterday to ban naked hiking after dozens of mostly German nudists started rambling through their picturesque region. The tiny canton voted to impose a $212 fine on violators.

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Sri Lanka	11.9¢
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Honduras	15.9 ¢	Chile	2.9 ¢
Panama from	3.9 ¢	Colombia from	3.9 ¢
Uruguay	7.9 ¢	Dominican Rep.	6.9 ¢
Venezuela	2.9 ¢	Mexico from	2.9 ¢

Middle East

LEBANON 9.9 ¢/min

Bahrain	5.9 ¢	Kuwait	6.9 ¢
Egypt	14.9 ¢	Oman	17.9 ¢
Iran from	3.9 ¢	SaudiArabia from	3.9 ¢
Iraq from	4.9 ¢	Syria	18.9 ¢
Israel	2.9 ¢	U.A.E	19.9 ¢

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Canadian woman among 16 tourists hurt in Egypt balloon crash

A Canadian woman was among 16 people injured when a hot air balloon crashed over the ancient Egyptian city of Luxor on Saturday. She was later released from hospital. The other injured tourists came from France, England, Denmark, the U.S. and South Korea. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Copter crash kills mom and baby

CORSICA French officials say a woman who gave birth aboard a medical helicopter and her newborn were killed, along with three others, when the chopper crashed in bad weather on the Mediterranean island of Corsica.

The crashed helicopter was found yesterday on a mountain range and officials say it was ripped in half. Saturday's weather was bad, with strong winds and fog.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Truce plea 'a joke'

Sri Lanka rejects Tamil Tigers' ceasefire declaration

Facing imminent battlefield defeat, Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels declared a unilateral ceasefire yesterday and called on the government to halt its offensive to spare the tens of thousands of civilians trapped by the fighting.

The government rejected the appeal and accused the rebels of playing for time as the military stands poised to rout them.

Civilians in zone

- An estimated 50,000 ethnic Tamil civilians remain in the war zone. Reports from the region detail growing cases of starvation and civilian casualties in recent days.

"This is a joke," Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa said of the offer.

New fighting erupted yesterday with navy patrol boats attacking a squad of rebel craft in a two-hour battle, destroying three boats and killing 12 insurgents, the military said.

Army troops also seized the rebel-held village of Valayarmadam after gunbattles. In a sign rebel morale was crumbling, 23 insurgents dressed as civilians surrendered to the advancing troops.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AMR NABIL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A worker brushes a Pharaonic sarcophagus of Illahun mayor's daughter inside a rock-cut tomb in Egypt's Fayoum region.

Ancient burial site unveiled

TOMBS Egyptian archeologists yesterday unveiled mummies, brightly painted sarcophagi and dozens of ancient tombs carved into a rocky hill in a desert oasis south of Cairo.

The 53 tombs — some as old as 4,000 years — were discovered recently in the village Illahun, about 80 kilometres southwest of the Egyptian capital.

The ancient burial site is next to the nearly four millennia old pyramid of pharaoh Sesostris II.

Three slim wooden sarcophagi believed to be holding female mummies were laid out in one of the tombs. The innermost coffins were painted to resemble the deceased.

Another tomb held a colourful mummy case that belonged to Isis Her Ib, the daughter of one of Illahun's mayors.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cruise liner fights off pirate attack

SOMALIA An Italian cruise ship with 1,500 people on board fended off a pirate attack far off the coast of Somalia when its private security force exchanged fire with the bandits.

Six men in a small, Zodiac-type boat approached the Msc Melody on Saturday and opened fire with automatic weapons. They retreated after security officers returned fire and sprayed them with water hoses. None of the 1,000 passengers and 500 crew members was hurt.

Separately, four Yemeni tankers escorted by a Yemeni Coast Guard boat were attacked by pirates. Three of the ships escaped and coast guards captured five pirates and wounded two others. Pirates seized one of the tankers, the Qana.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

ELECTION Iceland's leftist coalition was confirmed yesterday as the winner of the country's general election — a blow for the pro-business Independence party that many blamed for the collapse of the country's banking system. The left-wing coalition, led by interim Prime Minister Johanna Sigurdardottir and made up of the Social Democratic Alliance and the Left Green Movement won 34 out of the 63 seats.

PERFECT Willa Chen has a knack for tough tests. The Detroit News reported Saturday that the 17-year-old senior at southeast Michigan's Canton High School wrote ACT, SAT and PSAT examinations and got perfect scores on all three. Chen, who plans to attend Princeton University, says she doesn't think she studied a lot but that she tries to keep learning all the time. She participates in the Math Olympiad and also finds time to enjoy jazz, tap and ballet dancing.

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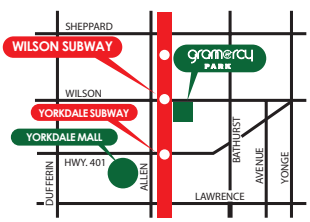

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Comment & Views

Comment

The drumroll, please

Results are in for Choose Anne A Hobby contest

HineSight

Anne Hines

metronews.ca/hinesight

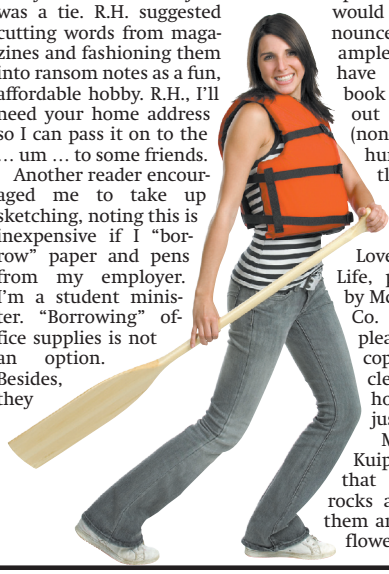
The results of our Choose Anne A Hobby contest are in. I've received messages suggesting I try everything from motorcycle repair to mosaic making, Chinese calligraphy to duplicate bridge.

What I've learned this week is that Metro readers are interesting, smart, often hilarious and it's a darn shame my partner, Liz, says I'm not allowed to invite every one of you over for dinner.

I was encouraged by the number of readers who think I can be given pointy objects such as scissors and knitting needles without bad things happening. And everyone suggested I pick a hobby I'm passionate about. Unfortunately, eating uncooked cookie dough and sleeping late aren't really hobbies.

The award for "most likely to land me in jail" was a tie. R.H. suggested cutting words from magazines and fashioning them into ransom notes as a fun, affordable hobby. R.H., I'll need your home address so I can pass it on to the … um … to some friends.

Another reader encouraged me to take up sketching, noting this is inexpensive if I "borrow" paper and pens from my employer. I'm a student minister. "Borrowing" office supplies is not an option. Besides, they won't give me a key to the supply cupboard.



David from Vancouver suggested I start a blog to promote my books, but I'm not very comfortable with self-promotion. I would never announce, for example, that I have a new book coming out this fall, (non-fiction humour, titled Parting Gifts: Notes On Loss, Love And Life, published by McArthur & Co. Please, please buy a copy and I'll clean your house). It's just not me.

Mary Kuipers voted that I paint rocks and place them around my flower garden. I like this. I could paint "No Squirrels Allowed," though "Squirrel Buffet" would be more accurate.

Ziggy in Toronto said her hobby is collecting free samples. Ziggy's scores include free cookies, spray mist, lotion, condoms and pairs of underwear. There's just no bad part of free underwear.

But a winner must be chosen. It is Colleen Kenny, who asked, "How about dragon boating?" How about it, indeed? It's got "spunky urban warrior woman" written all over it. If not, the T-shirt I plan to get certainly will.

So, the prize of a Metro pen and chocolates goes to Colleen. Let's hope this doesn't change her. And my sincere thanks to you all. The only thing more fun than doing my new hobby may have been choosing it.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.

Views

Driver barriers aren't complete protection

InTransit

Ed Drass

metronews.ca/intransit

After design challenges and an ongoing dispute with its union, the TTC is now installing plastic barriers that are supposed to reduce assaults on bus and streetcar drivers. About 75 buses have them already, and the total should be up to 1,200 later this year. By the end of 2010, the entire bus fleet will be equipped. A streetcar version is still under design.

Even though it is virtually the only transit system in Canada to use such barriers, the TTC decided to go ahead with them after a series of attacks against employees. The current statistic is one assault daily, which includes customers actually spitting on drivers.

The installation process has been slowed for a variety of reasons. For example, engineers had to find a design that would physically protect the operator without restricting their movement too much, and they needed a material that wouldn't cause glare or reduce visibility.

Also, the TTC and its main union have not been able to agree whether the shields are to be optional. Although ATU local 113 has pushed for barriers over several years, many drivers want to choose if the door is closed or not. The current compromise is the lower half of the plastic wall must be shut at all times and management will review the situation over the next year before deciding about the top section.

TTC spokesperson Danny Nicholson reports that, already, a driver has escaped being hit by a bottle of water because the barrier was closed.

Unfortunately, early Saturday morning a streetcar operator and a patron were both injured when a suspect threw a brick through an open driver-side window — reportedly after a fare dispute. I've never heard of such a thing happening before, but it seems that a shield would not have made a difference in this case.

Despite the drawbacks — including the effect on customer-employee communication — barriers may indeed reduce assaults. Onboard cameras may help, too — all of the TTC's surface vehicles now have them.

The catch is that many confrontations seem to involve someone apparently not paying their way. A few people will continue to get violent when challenged on this, no matter what technology is in place. Even if the TTC were to automate its payment system, this problem won't disappear.

Toronto-based transport writer Ed Drass covers transit issues every Monday; transit@eddrass.com.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Letters

Pot comment reinforces stigma and false myth

Re: Canadian outdoor NHL game? Only in Alberta (April 22).

Although I agree the Rideau Canal would be a dumb place for an outdoor NHL game, as a federally licenced medical marijuana user who is also married to one, I take deep offence to the comment, "My advice to them would be to not smoke marijuana before making suggestions for where the Ottawa Senators play outdoor games."

This comment reinforces the stigma and scientifically false myth that pot use makes people stupid or insane.

Sure, it was probably just meant for levity, but it was used at the expense of people who use marijuana for medicine, and it is little things like this that makes our lives that much harder.

If anything, the idea for a Rideau Canal NHL game probably came from some beer-headed jock.

RUSSELL BARTH, PATIENTS AGAINST IGNORANCE AND DISCRIMINATION ON CANNABIS

Worth mentioning

New focus for Dion filmmaker

It was the straw that broke Stéphane Dion's political back.

But now the videographer responsible for Dion's out-of-focus swan song is producing a video tribute he hopes will refocus attention on the former Liberal leader's accomplishments.

"He's a brilliant, principled, hard-working man," says Mick Gzowski, who is producing a video for Dion's official send-off at a party convention in Vancouver later this week.

Gzowski, a documentary filmmaker and former official videographer for the Liberal leader, was blamed — some say scapegoated — when Dion flubbed a golden opportunity to sell the merits of a coalition government to millions of Canadians via a televised address to the nation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

It's your turn to tell others what you think. Email your thoughts and opinions to: torontoletters@metronews.ca
Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

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Cordy turns down takeover offer
Cordy Oilfield Services said Friday that it has decided against a potential takeover offer by Geosam Investments that valued the company at about $16.7 million. The company said Geosam is considering an offer of 20 cents cash per Cordy share. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

$5B bid for Japan Citigroup

Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group has emerged as the most likely candidate to buy Citigroup Inc.'s Japanese brokerage unit after offering the highest bid worth $5 billion US. Sumitomo Mitsui, one of Japan's top three banks, has won exclusive negotiating rights from Citigroup to acquire Nikko Cordial Securities. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

IMF bows to demands

Agrees to sell bonds to raise funds

The International Monetary Fund will sell bonds to raise funds to lend to struggling nations, the head of the organization said Saturday, in a victory for developing countries.

Emerging economies such as China, Brazil and India pushed for the move as an alternative to providing longer-term loans to the IMF. Those countries want greater voice in the institution before providing additional resources.

World leaders meeting three weeks ago in London pledged to boost an IMF emergency lending facility by $500 billion US, but finance officials meeting in Washington disagreed on how to best provide the funds.

In addition, Youssef Boutros-Ghali, chairman of the IMF's policy setting committee, said IMF members agree there is a "break in the clouds" in the outlook for the global economy. He said the global economy should start to stabilize by the end of this year and recovery could kick in by the end of the first half of 2010. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCOTT APPLEWHITE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

International Monetary Fund Managing Director Dominique Strauss-Kahn, right, Egyptian Finance Minister Youssef Boutros-Ghali, centre, and IMF First Deputy Managing Director John Lipsky at a news conference in Washington, Saturday.

Business in brief

MARKETS Stock markets are starting the week on uncertain ground after investors pulled back some of their optimism late Friday when the U.S. Federal Reserve unveiled its methodology for evaluating the 19 largest banks. Only the Toronto Stock Exchange and the Nasdaq managed to squeeze out a seventh consecutive week of gains.

TRANSPORT Canada's leading trucking company is maintaining earnings margins near historic levels, TransForce's chief executive said, despite reporting Friday that the Montreal-based firm's first-quarter profits plummeted to $3.1 million from $19.1 million a year earlier, and revenues dipped to $452.4 million from $526.3 million. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Public Mobile sets wireless date

CELLPHONES Public Mobile chief executive Alek Krstajic said Friday he's intent on bringing an independent new wireless network to market by the end of this year. He said he's targeting people who shop at "no-frills grocery stores" as well as students. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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As to Disney properties/artwork: ©Disney

Use only what you need

Conserve the products you use. Using products sparingly means buying less often ... and that means less packaging at the curb, according to Future Friendly. Use only what you need and follow manufacturer's instructions, because more doesn't mean more effective. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Going Green

Litter affects us all

A Toronto woman has begun a campaign in an attempt to resolve the country's litter problem. Benita Grist's message is simple: Litter affects all of us, even you.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: MIKE.DEREZYCKY@METRONEWS.CA

Share your green parenting tips

Meeting a baby's needs and being eco-friendly at the same time can be trying

EarthTones

Another Earth Day has come and gone. Well, we hope it hasn't gone in spirit.

We've been on hiatus and it kind of feels like we slept through Earth Day this year, although the reality is that we've barely slept at all. We deliberately try to maintain some personal distance in these articles for objectivity, but the inspiration for this article (and the reason for the hiatus and sleepless nights) is highly personal. We've just welcomed our first child, a beautiful daughter, and we actually celebrated our Earth Day trying to fit an eight-pound infant into a 15-pound cloth diaper.

Looking into those big eyes peering out at us over the waistband of her diaper, we realized two things: 1) The cloth diaper would need a breathing hole; and 2) Earth Day and all that it represents suddenly means much more. It's easier to be blasé about future generations when they are not wearing your genes.

The irony, and I think other new parents may appreciate this, is that while we view a clean and healthy environment as her birthright, meeting her immediate needs can have the opposite effect, at least in the short term. Given that the breathing hole idea has not panned out, we are using disposables until her neck, at least, protrudes from the cloth diaper. Our trash output for the past three weeks has been on par with the previous three months, and it is with a sense of shame that we haul it to the curb on trash days.

The other thing we've learned about babies is they like to be warm. We're a bit notorious for keeping the house cold all winter and hot in the summer. Somehow, we can't get her to buy in. She just doesn't understand when we tell her to stop whining and put on a sweater.

And babies mean laundry. Lots of laundry, which will only pick up once the disposable diapers can be disposed of. We now get why adult laundry soap comes in small bottles and baby laundry soap comes in huge bottles. It will be a banner day when she outweighs her laundry soap.

Of course, having a baby also means less travelling, less eating out, less watching TV and working on the computer (really, I'm not just playing games). So maybe it balances out, but we'd really like to be doing better for her world.

Anyway, the point of this article is not to complain, because although we are now zombies, there are no happier zombies anywhere. The purpose is to invite you to share some of your green parenting tips. It would be a big help to us, and we would love to share some ideas in a future column.

So tell us, what changes have you made to your lifestyle since having kids that cut down on energy use, laundry, trash output, etc. We'd love to know so we can stop hiding our trash in our neighbours' bins (just kidding, Gilmores).

Sophia Dore is an environmental scientist with Conestoga-Rovers & Associates. Andrew Laursen is an assistant professor at Ryerson University; earthtones.metro@gmail.com.

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Donate your change for environment

CAMPAIGN With an estimated $470 million lying around Toronto homes in coins, a new organization called Change for the Environment is hoping Torontonians will dig out some of their quarters, loonies and toonies and donate them toward improving the air we all breathe.

The first annual Change for the Environment campaign runs April 30 to May 3 throughout the GTA, with funds raised benefitting The Ontario Lung Association, and Toronto and Region Conservation.

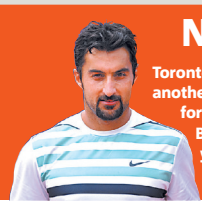
Ed Robertson of the Barenaked Ladies is throwing in more than his two cents to ensure the campaign's success. A self-professed greenie, Robertson is passionate about environmental issues, particularly the impact today's air quality has on our health.

Spare change drop-off locations are very convenient to most, and can be found at www.changefortheenvironment.org.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Canada drops nine on Hungary
Martin St. Louis registered a hat trick as Canada won its second game at the IIHF World Hockey Championship with a 9-0 shellacking of Hungary yesterday. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports



Nestor, Zimonjic win again

Toronto's Daniel Nestor and Serb Nenad Zimonjic have added another clay title to their resumé. The pair defeated Nestor's former partner Mark Knowles of the Bahamas and India's Mahesh Bhupathi 6-3, 7-6 (9) to win the Barcelona Open doubles title yesterday, their second clay championship in as many weeks.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

EDITOR: JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

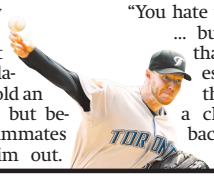
Another series win for Jays

AL RESULT
Blue Jays 4 White Sox 3

VS

Roy Halladay is finding it's a lot easier to pitch for a team with a potent offence.

Scott Rolen hit a go-ahead RBI single in the eighth inning, helping the Blue Jays beat the Chicago White Sox 4-3 yesterday to secure their sixth straight series win. Halladay couldn't hold an early 2-0 lead, but believed his teammates would bail him out.



"You hate to give up a lead ... but I know more than ever I feel like, especially early in the game, we have a chance to get it back," Halladay said.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Caps, Canes win; two Game 7s forced

STANLEY CUP
2009 Playoffs

Eric Staal scored two goals less than three minutes apart, Cam Ward made 28 saves in his third career playoff shutout and the Carolina Hurricanes beat the New Jersey Devils 4-0 last night to force a decisive Game 7 tomorrow.

Ray Whitney had a goal and three assists and Jussi Jokinen scored Carolina's first power-play goal since Game 2.

Capitals 5, N.Y. Rangers 3

John Tortorella's view from a suite was no better than the one from the bench, and the suspended coach watched helplessly as Washington dominated his Rangers for the second straight game. Rangers goalie Henrik Lundqvist didn't make it to the third period, and Washington's Tom Poti torched his former team in the Capitals' 5-3 victory yesterday that set up a Game 7 tomorrow.

BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

Henrik Lundqvist of the Rangers is beaten by Viktor Kozlov.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cavs complete sweep

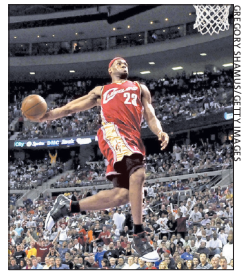
NBA
2009 Playoffs

LeBron James had 36 points, 13 rebounds and eight assists to lead the Cleveland Cavaliers to a 99-78 victory over the Detroit Pistons yesterday, sweeping the Eastern Conference first-round series.

James made his first four shots — including a windmill dunk. He helped put the Pistons away for good with a 16-6 run midway through the third quarter.

Bulls 121, Celtics 118 (2OT)

Another playoff thriller between Chicago and Boston, and this one went to the Bulls. Ben Gordon scored 22 points, and the Bulls beat the Celtics 121-118 in double overtime yesterday to tie their first-round series at two games apiece.



GREGORY SHAMUS/GETTY IMAGES

LeBron James breaks for a first-quarter dunk yesterday.

Magic 84, 76ers 81

Hedo Turkoglu hit a three with 1.1 seconds left to lift the Orlando Magic to an 84-81 victory over Philadelphia, evening their series at two games apiece. Dwight Howard had 18 points and 15 rebounds, and every Magic starter scored in double figures. For a recap of the Blazers/Rockets game, visit metronews.ca/sports.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stafford goes first, Jets trade up

The Detroit Lions made Georgia QB Matthew Stafford the first pick of the NFL Draft Saturday. The New York Jets traded three players and two picks to get the fifth selection from Cleveland, used to draft USC QB Mark Sanchez. The Buffalo Bills took Penn State DE Aaron Maybin and Louisville centre Eric Wood with their two first-rounders. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Martin makes history

Over the past few weeks as the NFL draft approached, Greg Marshall quickly realized Vaughn Martin's days with the University of Western Ontario Mustangs were coming to an end.

Martin became the first Canadian collegiate player drafted as an underclassman to the NFL when the San Diego Chargers chose him in the fourth round, 113th overall yesterday, the highest NFL pick from a Canadian school since the Rams took Mike Schad in the first round from Queen's in 1986.

Martin, right, was such a dominant force in CIS that he drew interest from more than a dozen NFL teams before being drafted by San Diego.

The hulking defensive lineman still had three years of university eligibility remaining and wasn't even eligible for the CFL draft until 2011.

But the 22-year-old London, Ont., native worked out for 15 NFL teams, spoke with several others, and clearly impressed.

"I'm not surprised Vaughn was taken in the fourth round," said Marshall, the Mustangs head coach.

The six-foot-three, 328-pound Martin has all the tools to be a solid pro but is deemed a raw prospect because he only played two seasons at Western.

"Obviously he played at a lower level of competition than the typical Division I college, but our guys loved how he showed flashes of dominance," John Spanos, San Diego's director of college scouting, said on the club's website.

"He moves like a guy that is smaller. He has tremendous upside and his best football is ahead of him."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

More CanCon

- Rutgers DE Jamaal Westerman of Brampton signed as an undrafted free agent last night with the New York Jets. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Carver just wasn't a MLS guy

JustSoccer

Ben Rycroft

metronews.ca/justsoccer

I had been anticipating writing about a flare-throwing incident at the Toronto FC game Wednesday. For those that didn't catch it, a couple of teens allegedly lit road flares and tossed them from their section.

One hit the pitch, the other landed in a woman's lap. They were detained by supporters before the police apprehended them.

But unlike those sitting in section 114, who say they saw the flare toss coming, few saw the warning signs of what happened on Saturday. Toronto FC head coach John Carver resigned from his post for 'personal reasons.' Not 'personnel' as some had immediately theorized, but 'personal.'

Details have begun to trickle out, and a post-game press conference last night shed light on a few more.

Carver did not leave Toronto FC to return to Newcastle United where friend Alan Shearer took over the reins recently.

Carver did not have a problem with management — specifically Mo Johnston.

Carver did have a problem with MLS officiating and was fined $750 by the league for words spoken on that topic following the Dallas game — which works out to about $15 a word.

And Carver did sit upstairs against Chivas USA while assistant Chris Cummins coached the team.

What are not confirmed are reports Carver had a physical confrontation with a Dallas official and that landed him a spot away from the field — possibly for good.

The truth is John Carver, the character who teased reporters and taunted opposing fans, wasn't made for the corporate MLS. In the end, that may have been all the reason he needed to say goodbye.

Watch Ben Rycroft on the It's Called Football show every Sunday at metronews.ca; ben.rycroft@metronews.ca.

Toronto FC Beats KC

PAWEL DWULIT/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Marvell Wynne keeps the ball away from Kansas City Wizard Matt Besler yesterday. Danny Dichio scored in TFC's 1-0 win.

For video of the flare incident, visit: metronews.ca

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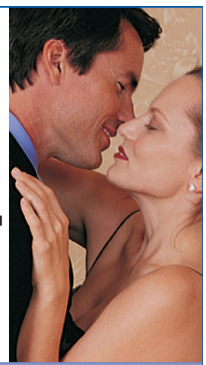

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Celebrate at Disney Parks

When the time comes to celebrate life's special moments, no place on Earth makes the magic happen like Walt Disney World Resort in Florida.

The legendary resort has been making vacation dreams come true for almost 40 years and with a slew of new events, attractions and promotions, the fun just keeps growing — especially for Canadians looking to celebrate special occasions with an unforgettable experience.

Marlie Morrison, director of marketing and sales for Walt Disney Parks & Resorts (Canada), says the resort has seen an amazing influx of Canadians bringing their families and friends down to celebrate joyful moments in their lives ranging from birthdays and anniversaries to weddings and new beginnings.

"More Canadians than ever before are celebrating special moments in their lives together with us," Morrison said.

To honour the celebration vacation trend, guests will be granted free admission into a Walt Disney World theme park on their birthday during 2009.

Want to show off your good cheer and group spirit? New complimentary celebration buttons will let Disney cast members and other guests instantly recognize you and your celebration.

Feel like keeping the memories alive? Personalized souvenirs let you mark your celebration in style with customizable Mouse ears, character T-shirts and collectible pins. The resort will even decorate guest rooms at your request, complete with confetti, banners and even a few pleasant surprises.

Imagination and excitement run wild at Walt Disney World's four theme parks and two water adventure parks where kids of all ages (or kids-at-heart) can find limitless possibilities for fun, while the resort's four golf courses and two full-service spas ensure a relaxing vacation experience like no other.

Disney's Hollywood Studios recently launched the American Idol Experience, a full-fledged singing audition that recreates the excitement of the hit television show.

DAVID ROARK PHOTO

The American Idol Experience, at Disney's Hollywood Studios.

GARTH VAUGHAN PHOTO

Disney characters, dancers and performers star in the new Celebrate a Dream Come True parade — part of Disney Parks' program, What Will You Celebrate — in the Magic Kingdom.

With a 1,000-seat, indoor theatre inspired by the actual American Idol set in California, the attraction lets guests aged 14 or older audition, for real, in front of Disney's own casting directors for a chance to sing in one of eight daily shows.

If you get your "yellow card" from your first audition, it's on to performance training, hair and make-up before your big moment on stage, performing for the crowd and three expert judges.

"It's like the real thing and it really is a lot of fun. It's an attraction that appeals to people of all ages," Morrison said.

If you're looking for a magical Walt Disney World vacation, book a package for most nights between Aug. 16 and Oct. 3 and you'll get the Disney dining plan — which includes two meals and one snack at up to 100 restaurants at the resort every single night of your stay — for free. Book by June 21 with WestJet Vacations to reserve your vacation package including free dining plan now.

Whether celebrating life's joys with friends and family or just having a whole lot of fun, the possibilities are endless at Walt Disney World Resort.

"There's always something new and magical to share with your family at Walt Disney World. Come celebrate life's special moments and let us help you make them even more memorable," Morrison said.

– RAFAEL BRUSILOW

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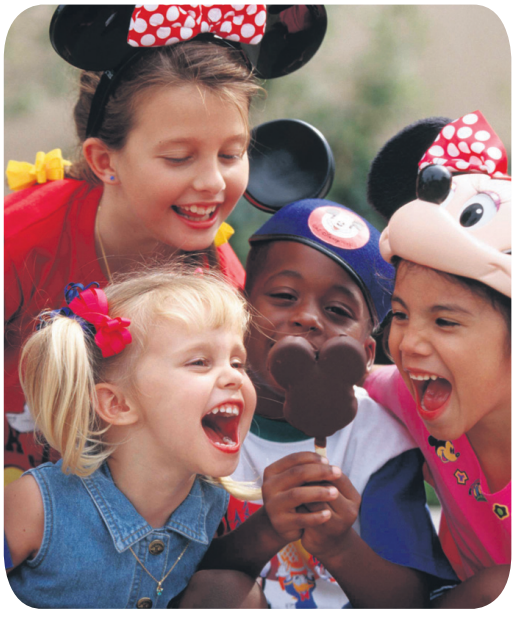

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Metro Workology exclusive: Paws and Claws
Be sure to read Workology and Metronews.ca/work for our pet industry feature series Paws and Claws. Seen here is Fat Fat, the 3-year-old Pekingese, submitted by a loyal Metro reader.

Workology

New website for Winnipeg

The University of Winnipeg has launched the first phase of its redesigned website. A large graphic on the homepage links to the university "You of W" portal, as well as to information about academic programs, student awards, and sustainability initiatives. The site also links to uWinnipeg's $70-million "A World of Opportunity" capital campaign.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Pet fashion, a booming trade?

Haute Couture for our canine friends blossoming in popularity

PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Seen here are some of the pups that have been featured on Pet Fashion, which airs 7 p.m. ET on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays on The Pet Network.

Paws and **Claws**

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Sunglasses for Shi Tzus, couture jackets for cats and mittens for miniature mutts? It's true — fashion has truly gone to the dogs.

Jeff Rustia, executive producer of the television show Pet Fashion on The Pet Network, has seen it all as more people indulge in the art of splurging people-pleasures on their pets.

"The whole pet fashion industry is just booming because pet owners love to treat their pets like their own kids — they like to nurture them, feed them well and dress them up," Rustia said.

The fashion world has whole-heartedly embraced pet fashion, with increasing numbers of pet-only fashion designers entering the market and powerhouse industry soirees taking place at Pet Fashion Week in New York twice a year. And, just like in the real fashion world, clothes exist at all pricing levels for plebes and princes alike.

"The trends in the fashion world very much mimic the trends in the pet world. Like human fashion, there's the affordable fashion and then there's couture. This is big business," Rustia said.

Case-in-point: One show segment highlighted a $600 hand knit sweater for a Chihuahua that could make even the most frivolous spender wince.

Some stores in places like Los Angeles have even gone so far as to design their interiors to cater to four-legged shoppers, placing outfits on miniature racks lowered down to dog-height.

In a recent episode, Pet Fashion filmed a full doggy wedding, complete with gowns, invitations, seating arrangements, table centrepieces and a huge wedding cake made out of organic dog biscuits. Rustia says such things show the pet industry has matured beyond basic necessities, toys and treats.

"For me it's just a fact that there is a market out there. This is a whole niche industry within the pet world that's absolutely insane, it's wild, it's incredible and it's amazing," Rustia said.

Rustia says the growth of pet fashion is all part of a push by owners to make their pets an extension of themselves.

"Often we catch pets and pet owners not only dressing alike but behaving alike too. I think we see ourselves in our pets," Rustia said.

As for what Poochie thinks about his tight new little leather jacket, Rustia says not to worry.

"Dogs and cats are great about telling you rather quickly when they do not like something. For the most part, they get used to (the clothes) and they really like them," Rustia said.

For more of the Paws and Claws exclusive series check Workology frequently or stop by:
metronews.ca/work

Metro readers' best friends

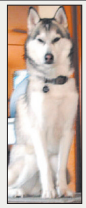
Paws and Claws feature

- Metro would like to thank everyone who has sent in a picture of their pet, we'll try to publish as many as we can throughout the month of April.

Here's Frank the Weinerdog (or Daschund).

Here's Holly the Pembroke Welsh Corgi.

Here's Cooper, the Lhasa Apso.



Left: Here's Chinook, the nine-year-old Malamute-Husky mix.

Right: Here's Peanut, the rescued Yorkshire Terrier.

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No flat fee: Students
Recently, the University of Toronto Students' Union and the Arts and Science Students' Union filed an application to stop a flat fee proposal, which would allow uToronto's arts and science faculty to charge full-time students for five courses, regardless of how many classes they take. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Personalizing funeral services

'Death midwife' brings creativity into the grieving process; and it's green too

OddJobs

Diane Peters

Metronews.ca/oddjobs

When Shelley Sherriff's father died back in the 1980s, she and her siblings were by his side in his hospital room. After he had passed, they found they didn't want to leave him. They stayed in the room all day, until finally the hospital asked them to go home.

"I wondered if there was another way," Sherriff, now 56, asked herself back then. Sherriff spent many of the last few years caring for her aging mother, who was in her 90s when she died. Again, the process after the death felt impersonal.

So, the website designer, who lives in both Victoria and Salt Spring Island, started doing some research. She discovered a so-called death midwife named Jerrigrace Lyons in California who both offered and taught others about offering at-home funeral services that could be both personalized and were environmentally friendly.

Over the last year, Sherriff visited Lyons and took three of her training courses. Although it's not recognized by any official body, Sherriff was certified as a death midwife through Lyon's company Final Passages.

> **"It's a great opportunity for people to process their grief in a creative way."**
> 'Death midwife' Shelley Sherriff

Now, Sherriff is hard at work setting up Walking You Home. When someone dies, the family can call her instead of a funeral home. She'll arrive and will help the family bathe and dress the body, which Sherriff says is often a very caring and meaningful experience. She can also provide a casket: Either one made of cardboard, or local pine that will biodegrade. (Many caskets are made from lacquered exotic hardwood with have metal parts on them and won't break down.) If they wish, the family can decorate the casket. "It's a great opportunity for people to process their grief in a creative way," she says.

Using dry ice to preserve the body — formaldehyde is very expensive and it is said to cause cancer in funeral home staff and is not healthy for the environment once the body's in the ground — Sherriff can leave the body in her client's home for as long as three days. Then, the family can have a traditional funeral, or a ceremony of their own creation, all run by Sherriff.

All the while, Sherriff helps the family fill out paperwork and can arrange for the final burial or cremation.

While she's not yet open for business, Sherriff has been talking to people in her community and they've shown a lot of interest in her services, which are cheaper, more personal and greener than the customary approach to death today.

She plans to keep up her website work, but her long-term goal will be to guide people through death full time. "This is where my real heart and passion are."

The Lowdown

Job title: Death midwife.
Salary: $100 to $1,200 per session.
Education/training: Courses through an established death midwife.
Best Part of the Job: "Facilitating people being able to have what can be a very meaningful experience that they would otherwise miss."
Worst Part of the Job: "Being compassionately open to people's grief, but not taking that on."

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

PHOTOS SUBMITTED

While she's not yet open for business, death midwife Shelley Sherriff has been talking to people in her community and they've shown a lot of interest in her services, which are cheaper, more personal and greener than the customary approach to death today.

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Pet food: A fickle beast, but worth looking into

Paws and Claws

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Canada

Meg Smart once made her own dog food. Consisting of old leather boots, wood chips and motor oil, the professor of small animal nutrition at the University of Saskatchewan didn't feed it to her pets, but she could have.

Canadians standards for pet food are slack enough that the boots' nitrogen, wood chips' fibre and carbohydrates and motor oils' fat are legally suitable for pet food. Smart, who co-wrote Not Fit For a Dog: The Truth About Manufactured Dog and Cat Food, is quick to point out most brands of pet food don't rely on boots and motor oil, but her concern as that a lack of regulation means owners don't know where the ingredients come from.

"It's not so much the standard of the food, but that … you can source one lot of dog food (from) 20 different sources of ingredients. The quality control is hard to control," she explains.

Smart is also concerned that owners are getting hoodwinked by big companies. "When they talk about premium and super-premium, there's very little difference between the ingredients. They might have added a few herbs," she says. "People shouldn't be conned into feeling they need to buy the 'holistic' or 'super premium' for their pets. The other dog foods will probably do just as well."

She studied veterinary prescription diets during a year sabbatical and found very little science to support their claims. One company's specialized "kitten diets" sold via vets is identical to the company's over-the-counter diets.

"The veterinary profession, probably unwittingly, has gone into bed with the industry," the professor says, noting the pet food industry supports symposiums, education and research at the colleges. "It's, 'You scratch my back, I'll scratch your back, too.'

"The industry says you can't feed a homemade diet to your pets, that they're not balanced and complete. We dispel the myth about 'balanced and complete.'"

Smart has three dogs and four cats and buys food locally. "I know where they source their ingredients from," she explains. She tries to buy food with ingredients sourced within 100 miles, which can be tricky in the Prairies. The idea is to maintain confidence in the food, a lesson bitterly learned by many pet owners in 2007, when contaminated Menu Food products killed a number of animals.

"I would buy nothing but Canadian-made products," Smart says.

Metro readers'
Best friends

- Metro would like thank everyone who has sent in a picture of their pet, we'll try to publish as many as we can throughout the month of April.

Here's Brockie the Boston Terrier.

Here's Buckley, being cute.

Here's Romy the Puggle.

Here's a Jack Russell Terrier from Amie Pinto.

For more of the Paws and Claws exclusive series check Workology frequently or stop by: metronews.ca/work

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Entertainment

Wed again
Salma Hayek and her husband, Francois-Henri Pinault, held a lavish wedding ceremony in Venice, Italy, this weekend.
METRO WORLD NEWS

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

M. Ward: Hold Time rocker

KEITH CARMAN
for Metro Canada

Antiquated: Not the word that immediately comes to mind when considering a chart-topping pop album. Yet it's the best means to describe the gracefulness of Newbury Park, Calif., native M. Ward and his sixth release, Hold Time (Merge Records).

Singer/songwriter M. Ward recently released the album Hold Time.

There's a haunting familiarity to this folk-inspired singer/songwriter. Soft-spoken yet captivating, he mystifies and enraptures audiences with a velvety voice and smooth musical progressions that feel closer to orchestral movements performed by simplistic keyboards and guitars than a room full of classically-trained prodigies. Even Ward himself embraces the description. If Hold Time is antiquated, he's done his job right.

"That's my biggest inspiration," he beams about ghosts of musicians past. "I like older production and guitar styles and every record is an experiment."

Ward understands how unusual it is to be a 36-year-old independent folk musician with closer ties to the 1920s than the 2020s. Yet to him, writing and recording music today has become disposable; so common that anyone with a computer and a spare half-hour can create the next big single. Moreover, those "artists" burn bright and fast but fade quickly. As with his heroes though, Ward's music is slowly beginning to outshine those supernovas. His increasing popularity continues to blossom, proving that substance still beats style.

"I ask myself why I like older music more than current music all the time," he confesses. "I think it might have to do with having a closer relationship to the music I listened to growing up before I knew what music was. Somehow with music in memory, childhood and spirituality, there are a lot of overlapping circles. For some reason, certain songs loom large in those areas. Most of those songs were not written by people like (one would find) today."

As music forges on deeper into the digital age, this audiophile clings tighter to his analog ways. He only allows in enough technology to commit his craft to tape, not overtake it. While others may have forgotten music's rudiments, to Ward, they are still very real; very present. Maybe that's why we find him so enigmatic.

"There are pluses and minuses to having recording capabilities in every person's bedroom," he says, humbly dismissing the notion. "It makes life easy for everyone to record but not for everyone to hear. For myself, it's not much of an issue because I still stay pretty focused on my inspiration ... That's how I did it when I first started and nothing's changed."

Box office

1. **Obsessed:** $28.5 million US
2. **17 Again:** $11.7 million
3. **Fighting:** $11.4 million
4. **The Soloist:** $9.7 million
5. **Earth:** $8.6 million
6. **Monsters vs. Aliens:** $8.5 million
7. **State of Play:** $6.9 million
8. **Hannah Montana: The Movies:** $6.4 million
9. **Fast & Furious:** $6.1 million
10. **Crank: High Voltage:** $3.0 million

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

G11

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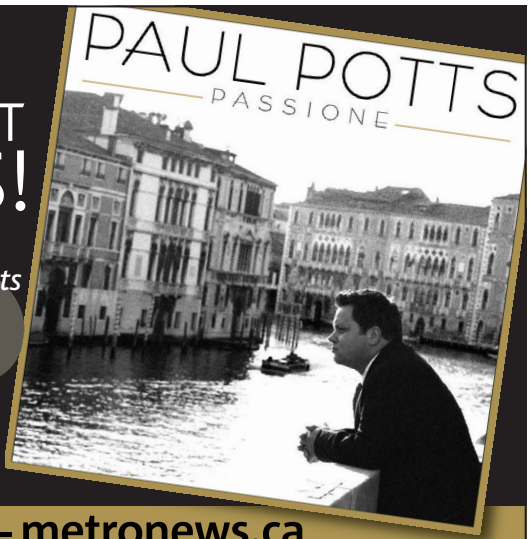
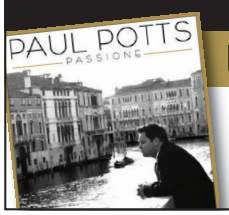


AS SEEN ON YouTube *Paul Potts, singing sensation and 'Britain's Got Talent' winner returns with his brand new album PASSIONE.*



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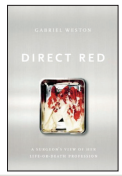
Opening up surgery's secrets



Direct **Red**

Author: Gabriel Weston
Publisher: Bond Street Books
Price: $29.95 (Hardcover)

When one goes under the knife, anesthesia relieves having to feel the pain associated with serious surgery. But Gabriel Watson slices open this world unknown in Direct Red, her chronicle of life as a surgeon. The depiction begins with how an unlikely medical worker entered the profession after obtaining an unrelated arts degree. The story propels quickly with emotionally and physically graphic descriptions of what transpires when one is put under. Honest and direct, Weston shares her experiences to relay the challenging life of a surgeon and to unearth an insider medical world, once seen only by the profession's practitioners.

Might As Well Laugh **About It Now**

Author: Marie Osmond with Marcia Wilkie
Publisher: Penguin Canada
Price: $31 (Hardcover)

For 46 years, Marie Osmond has lived her life in public. From the age of three, performing with The Osmond Brothers on The Andy Williams Show, she's had her share of the spotlight — but it's not always been glamorous. In this memoir, Osmond reviews the triumphs and blunders she's encountered along her journey through stardom. While at times mundane, like her shameless promotion of NutriSystem, Osmond does open up and offer candid reflections on her struggles with weight and juggling eight children.

The Origin of **Species**

Author: Nino Ricci
Publisher: Anchor Canada
Price: $22 (Paperback)

Winner of the 2008 Governor General's Literary Award for fiction, The Origin of Species is a fictional observation on the purpose of existence and the beauty of life. Toronto novelist Nino Ricci introduces protagonist Alex Fratarcangel, living in 1980s Montreal. The grad student is perturbed by his past relationships and the point of his life, leading him to seek a therapist. The therapy he receives and several influential characters with their own afflictions leads Alex to realize life lessons learned in years past that now become strikingly clear.

BRIAN COULTON/FOR METRO CANADA

BookPicks

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Jerry Seinfeld's New York roots

Jerry Seinfeld, whose grandfather Simon Seinfeld was a 15-year-old tailor from what is now Ukraine when he arrived at Ellis Island in 1903, is receiving a family heritage award from the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Aerosmith to settle lawsuit with Maui concert

MUSIC Free tickets to see Aerosmith in Hawaii?

Dream on, unless you happen to be one of 8,300 people left in the cold when the band cancelled a sold-out concert in 2007.

Aerosmith has agreed to perform on Maui to settle a class-action lawsuit filed by fans who alleged the band pulled out of the show in favour of a larger concert in Chicago and a more lucrative private performance for Toyota dealers on Oahu.

The suit claimed the cancellation cost Maui ticket buyers between $500,000 and $3 million in travel costs, handling fees and other expenses.

The date for the new Maui concert has not been set but Brandee Faria, a lawyer representing the would-be concertgoers, said it will likely be in September or October, after Aerosmith wraps up its North America tour.

Aerosmith lawyer Jay Handlin says the band was glad to reach the settlement.

"The band is about the music," Handlin said. "So they are glad to be able to resolve this in a way that really focuses on connecting ... the people of Hawaii with the band."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Snoop lawsuit unfolds

Man beaten at rap concert details terror for courts

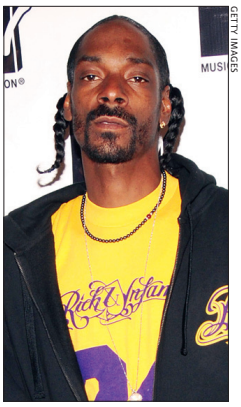
A man suing Snoop Doggy for millions told a jury Friday that the euphoria of being near one of his idols quickly turned to terror during a 2005 concert where he was savagely beaten.

Richard Monroe Jr. claims the rapper, whose real name is Calvin Broadus, hit him with a brass-knuckle microphone after he jumped onstage and put his hand on the performer's shoulder.

Broadus nearby as Monroe described waking up naked, robbed, and in a pool of blood after the beat-down by other performers and the rapper's security detail. A videotape of the incident that occurred at the White River Amphitheater near Seattle was also shown to jurors Friday.

Broadus' lawyers said the video doesn't show the blow to the back of the head that Monroe claims the rapper delivered, nor evidence that the rapper should be forced to pay any damages.

They told jurors during the trial's opening moments Friday that Broadus' security guards had mere seconds to react when Monroe — who stands six-three and weighs nearly 300 pounds — came on stage unexpectedly.


GETTY IMAGES

Rapper Snoop Doggy is being sued by a concertgoer.

"Mr. Broadus thought he was being attacked," said lawyer Hayes Michel.

He told jurors the rapper's security reacted swiftly because Monroe was struggling, a claim Monroe denied.

"I was getting punched, kicked, kicked, punched," Monroe told jurors. "It was brutal. I was really in shock. I couldn't believe it."

Monroe's lawyer, Brian E. Watkins, said his client was essentially "left for dead."

For effect, Watkins hit his hand and stomped the floor to describe to jurors how Monroe was attacked.

Monroe sued Broadus and several others in April 2006 for $22 million US in damages and punitive penalties.

Monroe thought he was answering a call to party onstage with Broadus during a performance of Gin and Juice. He said he meant the rapper, whom he often referred to Friday as Mr. Broadus, no harm.

"I was having fun," he told jurors. "I was excited. Snoop was in the house."

Michel said Monroe's descriptions were exaggerated and that Monroe's story about the incident has repeatedly changed, as well as his description of his injuries to various doctors.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stone mystery lawsuit unsealed

COURTS A civil lawsuit against actress Sharon Stone that had been held in secret turns out to be a routine dispute over legal fees that the judge says she sealed in error.

The case was unsealed Friday after media questioned why there were no official records. The dispute over $107,000 in fees was filed by a lawyer in November and settled.

Court officials released the complaint and transcripts that detail how the case remained a secret.

Sharon Stone

Judge Maureen Duffy-Lewis, who issued a broad order sealing the entire case, filed a document Friday stating she'd done so in error.

Court transcripts show the order was brought to the attention of Duffy-Lewis on March 19, a full month before news organizations began repeatedly requesting its release.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In brief

STALKER Model-turned-television personality Tyra Banks will face a different kind of audience this week. Banks will testify in a Manhattan courtroom where Brady Green goes on trial on charges of stalking her from coast to coast. The host of America's Next Top Model and The Tyra Banks Show is expected to say Green's unwanted attentions alarmed her and made her afraid for her safety. Defence lawyer Sydney O'Hagen says her 38-year-old client is simply an overzealous fan.

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Lost star is target of lawsuit
A former employee of the ABC show Lost is suing over her claims that she was sexually harassed by actor Henry Ian Cusick and then fired in retaliation for complaining about it, according to Fox News. METRO WORLD NEWS

New reality series shuffles

I'm a Celebrity loses Blagojevich, gains The Hills' lovebirds

The reality series I'm a Celebrity . . . Get Me Out of Here! lost Rod Blagojevich but boasts TV lovebirds Heidi Montag and Spencer Pratt and a Baldwin brother among the contestants.

Ousted Illinois governor Blagojevich, who had hoped to compete on the NBC show, was barred by a judge from travelling to Costa Rica for filming while he awaits trial on racketeering and other charges. He was in Los Angeles on Friday to join in the cast announcement.

The I'm a Celebrity contestants include Montag and Pratt of MTV's The Hills, who married just this past weekend.

Others who agreed to test their survival skills in the Costa Rican jungle and vie for bragging rights and money for charity: former pro basketball player John Salley; model and TV host Janice Dickinson; actor Stephen Baldwin and former pro wrestler and model Torrie Wilson.

GETTY IMAGES

Contestants on new reality series I'm a Celebrity ... Get Me Out of Here! include Stephen Baldwin, far left, supermodel Janice Dickinson and former pro basketball player John Salley.

The glamorous Dickinson was asked if she would be out of her element.

"Are you insane? Life is a jungle," she replied, adding that she had participated in the original British version of I'm a Celebrity.

Three other contestants will be announced, NBC told a news conference held in Pasadena and by phone.

The series will premiere with a two-hour episode at 8 p.m. on June 1, and air 8-9 p.m. on Monday through Thursday until its June 24 finale.

MTV, which is a partner with NBC on the series, will show a marathon of the preceding week's episodes on Sundays, beginning June 7. Unaired footage and commentary from cast members will be included.

Blagojevich travelled to Southern California on Thursday and filmed a promotional spot for I'm a Celebrity in which he was hoisted in front of a blank screen and feigned making a parachute jump.

Trying to survive in the jungle would not have been his first choice of a job, Blagojevich said Friday. But he had "basically deluded myself" into thinking of it as a chance to be a modern-day version of the adventurous Teddy Roosevelt.

He will abide by the court's decision, Blagojevich said.

Noting his admiration for California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Blagojevich offered a comparison with the actor-turned-politician.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Entertainment in brief

MUSIC Although rapper Nas received backlash for his racial epithet-titled album before switching it to Untitled, he says earning a Grammy nomination for the disc encouraged him to keep speaking his mind.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Golden Girl Bea Arthur dies at 86

Bea Arthur

OBITUARY Beatrice Arthur, the tall, deep-voiced actress whose razor-sharp delivery of comedy lines made her a TV star in the hit shows Maude and The Golden Girls and who won a Tony Award for the musical Mame, died Saturday. She was 86.

Arthur died peacefully at her Los Angeles home with her family at her side, family spokesman Dan Watt said. She had cancer, Watt said, declining to give further details.

"She was a brilliant and witty woman," said Watt, who was Arthur's personal assistant for six years. "Bea will always have a special place in my heart."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kenya's Style

Kenya Hunt
Read the blog at metronews.ca/kenyasstyle

For complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and tickets, visit: metronews.ca/movies

TO	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 4/27/09	265	353	2	TVO	Time Team "Elveden"		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Midsomer Murders		*Warrendale* (1967, Documentary)		
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	House "House Divided"		24 (HDTV PA) (N)		Heroes (N)		News
	215	343	4	OMN1	2Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Il	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	TBA	TBA	To Be Announced				CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Chuck (N)		Less-Kind	Surviving Sub.	Mantracker (DVS)		News (N)
	212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Hollywood	Big Bang Th	Gary Unmarr	Two/Half Men	Corner Gas	CSI: Miami (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	218	345	11	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	The Soup (N)	How I Met	My Boys	Engagement	The Best Years (DVS)		News (N)
	137	763	13	TFO	Panorama		Les Derniers Romains		*Les Risques du métier* (1967, Drame)			Folie-aventure	Facteur
	-	-	14	-	Raymond	Raymond	News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men	King	Hist Language
	213	326	15	SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	Funniest Pets	Funniest Pets	One Tree Hill (HDTV) (N)		To Serve and Protect		Hitchcock Pres
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Big Bang Th	How I Met	Two/Half Men	Engagement	CSI: Miami (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Chuck (N)		Heroes (N)		(10:01) Medium (N)		News (N)
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dancing With the Stars			Surviving Sub.	(10:02) Castle (N)		News (N)
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Dancing With the Stars			Jeff Ltd.	(10:02) Castle (N)		News (N)
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	House "House Divided"		24 (HDTV PA) (N)		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Time Goes By	Antiques Roadshow (N)		American Experience (N) (DVS)			TBA	Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	Gossip Girl (HDTV) (N)		One Tree Hill (HDTV) (N)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (HDTV)		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
	298	653	332	TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Friends	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Gossip Girl (N)
news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Newman	Planet Earth		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow Report		CNBC Reports (HDTV)		Ultimate Fighting		On the Money		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	Week-Baseball	Jays	MLB Baseball Toronto Blue Jays at Kansas City Royals. (HDTV) (Live)						Sportsnet Con.
	400	400	30	TSN	NHL Hockey: West Quarterfinal -- Red Wings at Blue Jackets					SportsCentre	NHL Hockey: Conf. Quarterfinal		
	411	457	58	OLN	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Departures		Mantracker		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Departures
	417	406	81	SC	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	This Week in NASCAR (N)		SuperCars	SuperCars	Barrett-Jackson		Car Crazy
family	551	542	25	YTV	Karaoke Star Junior (N)		Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	League-Evil	Zixx Level	Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45	TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	Punch	Robot Chicken	American Dad	Moral Orel
	556	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Will & Grace	Friends	How Clean	Kim	Love It or List It (N)		The Agents (N)	House	Maxed Out
	570	580	29	MM	The O.C. "Pilot"		Video on Trial	Video on Trial	Shot at Love-Tila Tequila		MuchNews	Video on Trial	MuchOnDem
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami "Shattered"		Intervention "John C."		Intervention "Casie"		Paranormal	Paranormal	Paranormal
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Carabinieri		Carabinieri		Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
	571	581	36	MMM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		Don't Forget the Lyrics!		Entourage	Gene Simmons	The Daily Fix
	575	583	38	CMT	Karaoke Star Junior		Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Karaoke Star
	616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits		Cashing In	Kink in Hair	Kenny-Spenny	Kenny-Spenny	Name Is Earl	The Office	House
	620	523	40	BVO	The Fiddle and the Drum		Bravo! Salutes the Junos		The 2009 JUNO Awards				Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Skin Deep	Til Debt-Part	Wedding SOS	Wedding SOS	Wedding SOS	Wedding SOS	My Wardrobe	So Chic	ET Canada
	522	506	43	HIS	NCIS "Tribes"		Hero Ships		Victory 1945 (Part 2 of 2)		NCIS "Tribes"		Sea Hunters
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Jeremy Hotz: Miserable		Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	For Rent	Income Prop.	Property Virgin	My First Place	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	MLB Baseball St. Louis Cardinals at Atlanta Braves. (HDTV) From Turner Field in Atlanta. (Live)						Home Videos	House-Payne	Seinfeld
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		*The Matrix Reloaded* ★★★ (2003, Science Fiction) Keanu Reeves, Laurence Fishburne.						*Matrix Reload*
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		*Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan* ★★★ (1982, Science Fiction)					The Circuit	Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52	MTV	The Hills	After Show	Canada's Next Top Model		College Life	The Hills	The Hills	After Show	MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Vanity Insanity	Reality	Carlawood	E News	Ground Up		Are You Smarter		Make or Break
	603	561	56	FOOD	Chef at Home	Chuck-Day Off	Work for Food	Glutton-Punish.	Food Detective	Get on Plate	Kitchen Nightmares		Restaurant
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Green Grass	May-December	McLeod's Daughters		Twist of Faith	Clergy	Poltergeist
	621	527	63	STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		TMZ (N)	etalk	Living the Life	Look-A-Like	The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Backyardigans	Nght Grdn	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Bucket-Dinos	Comfy Couch	Big & Small	Max & Ruby
	115	711	101	TVA	Gala Artis en coulisses (N)		Annie et ses hommes (N) (SC)		Monk (HDTV) (SC)		TVA 22 heures	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
	126	730	102	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249	VIVA	Judging Amy		Commander In Chief		Commander In Chief		Fraud	Lie Detective	Mediums
	300	601	301	M1	(6:15) *Baby Mama*		Stargate Atlantis		Tracey Ullman	U.S. of Tara	The Line (N)		Secret Diary
	305	612	306	PIX	*Casualties of War* ★★★ (1989, War) Michael J. Fox.				*Malcolm X* ★★★ (1992, Biography) Denzel Washington, Angela Bassett.				

critics'corner

The Fiddle and the Drum
That Joni Mitchell's got her hand in almost everything! Alberta Ballet artistic director Jean Grande-Maitre and songwriter Mitchell got together and came up with a ballet set to her music and performed in front of shots of her artwork. Yes, she paints, too. Influencing Mitchell's music and art are her concerns about the environment and war. 7 PM on BVO

Chuck
Chuck must save Ellie's life and keep her wedding to Awesome from being ruined by Ted Roark (guest star Chevy Chase) and Fulcrum. Morgan Fairchild, Bruce Boxleitner, Tony Hale and Scott Bakula also guest star in the season finale, "Chuck vs. the Ring." 8 PM on NBC CITY

CSI: Miami
It's not unusual for network executives to turn to reality television to deliver some killer ratings, but it's the real-life murder of a reality star that causes Horatio and the CSI team to delve into the scandalous world of a TV dating show in the new episode "Dead on Arrival." 10 PM on CTV CBS

German Film awards handed out

A movie about a German businessman's efforts to protect Chinese civilians against Japanese forces in the 1930s won the best film award at the annual German Film Prize ceremony Friday. Director Florian Gallenberger's film John Rabe also picked up the best actor award. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obsessed lacks sex, thrills

Obsessed
Director: Steve Shill
Stars: Idris Elba, Beyoncé Knowles
Classification: 14A
Rating:

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

For a movie that's being marketed as "this year's sexiest thriller," Obsessed certainly lacks some key components. Like sex and thrills for starters.

In fact, motivated characters, a sharper script and a consistent tone wouldn't have hurt the value of this so-called thriller either.

In the neutered Fatal Attraction-wannabe, Idris Elba (RocknRolla) plays Derek Charles, a successful executive who suddenly finds himself the mark of an attractive office temp named Lisa (Ali Larter).

"I think you'll find I'm not your typical temp," she tells Derek — and boy, does she mean it. Soon, Lisa is seductively sidling up to Derek at the office party, peeling off clothes in his parked car and sneaking into his hotel room. It would all be oh-so intriguing if Derek were tempted, but he's not — even though that aspect would've jacked up the drama exponentially.

Instead, the film simply hinges on the fact that Derek doesn't tell his wife (played by pop star Beyoncé Knowles) that a crazy co-worker is stalking him in the first place. Then again, if he had, the movie would've ended about 15 minutes in.

Eventually, Obsessed does deliver what most fans may be anticipating — a saucy, over-the-top scrap between Larter and Knowles (I'm not spoiling anything — it's heavily featured in the trailer). But as entertaining as that campy sequence is, it doesn't fit the tone of the rest of the drama. It doesn't matter anyhow — you'll be deep into a catnap before the catfight even begins.

Singer Beyoncé Knowles stars in Obsessed.

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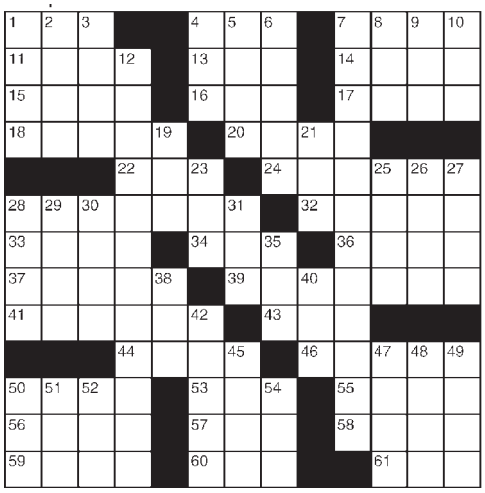
Take Five



Crossword across

1 Proscribe
4 Pugilistic ploy
7 Greek salad ingredient
11 Venusian fleet?
13 Puncturing tool
14 Leave out
15 Creche trio
16 Sticky stuff
17 Ancient letter
18 Sub
20 Lummox
22 Afternoon affair
24 Soul
28 Watch the kids
32 Moral principle
33 Grad
34 Treasure seeker's aid
36 Long lunch?
37 Helvetica lack
39 Inhabitant
41 Anatomical rupture
43 Teensy
44 Pre-swan
46 Duck
50 Shock
53 Once around
55 "Zounds!"
56 Pennsylvania port
57 Have bills
58 Fax
59 Hotel furniture
60 Potent stick
61 Rotation duration

Crossword down

1 Ecdysiast's move
2 Somewhere out there
3 "Fuggedaboudit"
4 Binge
5 MPs' quarry
6 High-arc baseball pitch
7 Ali Baba's foes
8 Flightless bird
9 Bronze component
10 Noshed on
12 Andy Rooney's show
19 Thumbs-up
21 Employ
23 Intention
25 At so-and-so's house (Fr.)
26 Take on
27 Greenspan's field (Abbr.)
28 Hit hard
29 Sheltered
30 "Ironside" star
31 Slight amount
35 Church seat
38 Newton ingredient
40 Born
42 Apportion
45 Show boredom
47 On in years
48 Carvey or Delany
49 Vortex
50 Dubya's brother
51 Raw rock
52 Cover
54 Favourite

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone — one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

				9		3	6	7
7	2		4	6			1	
						8		
				8				3
2	3		1		6		5	9
9					5			
		2						
	9			3	7		4	1
6	7	4		8				

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

5	8	2	4	6	1	3	7	9
7	6	1	9	5	3	2	8	4
3	9	4	7	8	2	5	6	1
6	2	7	3	1	4	8	9	5
8	4	3	2	9	5	6	1	7
9	1	5	8	7	6	4	2	3
1	3	8	5	2	7	9	4	6
4	7	9	6	3	8	1	5	2
2	5	6	1	4	9	7	3	8

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min.....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Grilled Rosemary Chicken

INGREDIENTS:
8 sprigs of rosemary, each about 2 in. (5 cm) long
8 large chicken thighs
1 lb (450 g) new potatoes
Salt and black pepper
5 tbsp (75 ml) olive oil
2 large cloves garlic
6 tbsp (90 ml) good-quality mayonnaise

METHOD:
1. Preheat broiler to high and boil water in kettle. Rinse and dry rosemary and insert sprig under the skin on each chicken thigh.
2. Scrub potatoes, put into a pot, cover them with boiling water, and add a little salt. Bring back to boil and cook until tender, 15 minutes.
3. Meanwhile, arrange chicken, skin-sides down, on grill rack. Brush with 1 1/2 tbsp (20 ml) oil, sprinkle with salt and pepper, and broil 10 minutes. Turn thighs, brush with 1 1/2 tbsp (20 ml) oil, season and cook 10 minutes more, until skin is golden and crisp. Turn off broiler, but leave chicken in oven to keep warm.
4. While chicken is cooking, put remaining oil into small pot. Peel garlic, crush into oil and shake over moderate heat until just beginning to sizzle. Turn off heat. Beat in mayonnaise with 2 tbsp (25 ml) very hot water from kettle, then cover and keep warm.
5. Drain potatoes, return to pot and crush with fork until roughly broken open and slightly flattened.
6. Divide chicken thighs potatoes among 4 plates. Spoon over mayonnaise, sprinkle with black pepper, and serve.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Don't fool around with a bashful person. Uncertainty crops up about debts. Mechanical problems provoke harsh words.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
A newcomer's purpose will be revealed. Someone has a good financial move in the works. A handshake isn't as reassuring as a kiss.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Meet with the people who make the decisions. Someone's child needs more respect. An infatuation is getting to be outrageous.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
You'll be in agreement with a plan. A friend is thrilled by unusual matchmaking. Don't tease a boaster who wins a prize.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Humourless fanatics put an end to sentimentality. A renegade does a good deed. The loss of freedom drives you crazy.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
When disgruntlement causes exhaustion — take a vacation. An obstacle contributes to a problem. A cruel person has revenge in mind.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
You'll succeed beyond your wildest dreams. Avoidable anxieties only waste your time. Shabby treatment leads to hurt feelings.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
A situation has to work itself out. An oracle doesn't see the whole picture. A flowery conversation proves to be inadequate.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
There's something you forgot to do. Shun a frustrating neighbour for the last time. The bearer of bad news gets unexpected guests.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Someone desperately wants something from you. Smile when confronted by an impolite person. Do not show disdain for anyone.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Give your support only if a man responds to messages. A greedy woman is disgusting. Scandal breaks out after a public breakdown.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A strange event won't squander good moments. Don't try to correct any foolish choices. Explain messages to avoid breaking a heart.

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TICO

Josh's dream pet

Joshua Jackson wants a pet dinosaur. The actor said: "We live in an age where anything is possible ... There was a man talking about how he's going to recreate a woolly mammoth. We're one step away from pet tyrannosauruses." FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Celebrity Buzz

Rihanna's bling brouhaha

LEGAL Four jewellers who lent Rihanna approximately $1 million US worth of accessories the night of her alleged beating by Chris Brown want their bling back, people.com reports.

Since late March, Rihanna, 21, has been trying to recover the borrowed jewelry from the LAPD, who took the items into evidence in their investigation.

"Since there appears to be no evidentiary value to the continued holding of this jewelry ... we respectfully (ask) the court to order the return of this property to (Rihanna) without further delay," her lawyer Donald Etra wrote in a court request filed earlier this week.

The items were described as two yellow metal hoop earrings with white stones; one yellow metal ring with white stones and green stones; and two yellow metal rings with white stones.

"If the DA doesn't need the items, and the LAPD doesn't need the items, there's no reason why they shouldn't be returned," Etra tells People.

A source adds that Rihanna also borrowed a Gucci dress for the Feb. 7 Clive Davis Pre-Grammy Party she attended, which also has not been returned.

Etra states in the documents that the owners of the jewelry were going to hold Rihanna liable if the accessories weren't returned, with the total cost and damages related to their late return as more than $1.4 million.

According to the court papers, the LAPD detective on the case referred Etra to the prosecutor on the case, who apparently has not responded to requests for the jewelry's return.

"At this stage, we're not even sure what evidence is going to be entered into the case," DA spokeswoman Sandi Gibbons tells People. "For now, we don't have any further comment on this matter."

The LAPD also declined to comment.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

John's new fling?

RUMOUR John Mayer is reportedly moving on from his romance with Jennifer Aniston — the musician has been linked to a 23-year-old aspiring actress, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Mayer and Aniston ended their on/off relationship last month following months of speculation about the state of their love affair.

The 31-year-old rocker is now rumoured to have found a new leading lady in part-time cocktail waitress Scheana Marie, who recently landed a small part in the Jonas Brothers upcoming Disney Channel TV show.

The pair met in 2008 while Marie was serving drinks at the Beverly Hills cigar club Grand Havana Room. A source tells people.com, "They've spent time together over the past few months. They're enjoying getting to know each other."

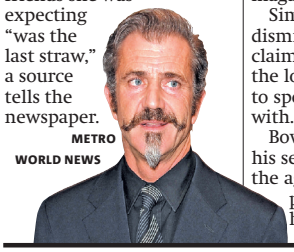
Marie admits knowing Mayer, but has refused to comment on rumours they are a couple, telling the website, "We're friends. He's a great guy. He's funny and sweet."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Divorce came after pregnancy?

RUMOUR The divorce drama for Mel Gibson doesn't seem to be calming down anytime soon. The Sun now reports that the Braveheart star's wife filed for divorce when she learned that Oksana Grigorieva, his alleged mistress, might be pregnant.

Robyn Gibson "put up with Mel for years but when she found out" the Russian singer was telling friends she was expecting "was the last straw," a source tells the newspaper.



METRO WORLD NEWS

Bow Wow ready for love

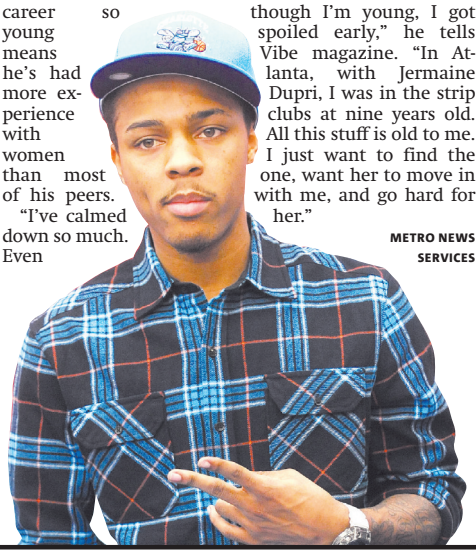
RELATIONSHIP Rapper Bow Wow is desperate to find the woman of his dreams and settle down, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer, whose real name is Shad Moss, has been romantically linked to Reverend Run's daughter Angela Simmons in recent months, and appeared to confirm the rumours by declaring her the "love of (his) life" in Giant magazine.

Simmons immediately dismissed Bow Wow's claims — and now he's on the look out for a new love to spend the rest of his life with.

Bow Wow acknowledges his search for "The One" at the age of 22 might be surprising to some — but he insists starting his career so young means he's had more experience with women than most of his peers.

"I've calmed down so much. Even though I'm young, I got spoiled early," he tells Vibe magazine. "In Atlanta, with Jermaine Dupri, I was in the strip clubs at nine years old. All this stuff is old to me. I just want to find the one, want her to move in with me, and go hard for her."



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Brad the flyboy?

PEOPLE Brad Pitt has found a new hobby to pass the time while girlfriend Angelina Jolie shoots her new movie in New York — he's taking flying lessons, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The couple and their six kids have set up home in the outskirts of the city while Jolie shoots Salt. And Pitt has been sneaking off to take to the skies. The actor was spotted last week jumping into a small single engine plane for a lesson.

It's not the first time Pitt has tried his hand at flying — the actor took helicopter lessons while shooting movie Inglourious Basterds in the Czech Republic in 2007.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Bon Jovi's marriage secret

Jon Bon Jovi revealed the secret to his lasting marriage to Dorothea Hurley: He's survived for almost two decades because he lives in fear of upsetting his spouse. "Let's get that right here, right now. I'm afraid of my wife," he confessed. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Celebrity Buzz

Spence and Heidi get married — again

MARRIAGE Heidi Montag is officially Mrs. Spencer Pratt, people.com reports. The Hills stars got married in an early evening ceremony at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Pasadena, Calif., on Saturday, People has confirmed.

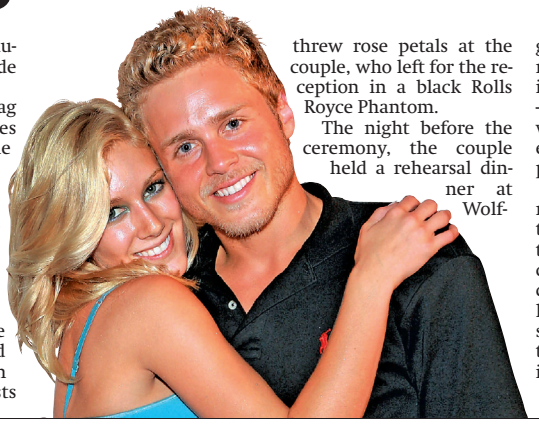
Montag, 22, and Pratt, 25, exchanged vows before about 200 guests, including Audrina Patridge, Kristin Cavallari, Brody Jenner and Frankie Delgado.

The bride wore jewels from Neil Lane, including a pear-shaped diamond floral necklace with multiple diamond chains layered over it, diamond earrings and diamond hairpins, which she picked out the day before the nuptials. Pratt borrowed a pair of diamond cufflinks from the jeweller for the big day.

Early Saturday, the couple arrived at the church in a white Rolls Royce Phantom. Before the ceremony, an airplane flew overhead and wrote "Spencer loves Heidi" in the sky. Pratt, looking dapper in a black suit, smiled and signed autographs for fans outside the church.

Meanwhile, Montag posted multiple updates on Twitter throughout the day. "This is going to be the best day of my life," she wrote at one point. "Thank you God for Spencer." She also described her wedding dress as "amazing — like a swan princess."

After the ceremony, the newlyweds emerged and kissed on the church steps. Wedding guests threw rose petals at the couple, who left for the reception in a black Rolls Royce Phantom.



The night before the ceremony, the couple held a rehearsal dinner at Wolfgang Puck's Beverly Hills restaurant Cut. The dinner included about 40 guests — and camera crews, which filmed the evening's events, including the couple's heartfelt toasts.

The wedding comes five months after the pair flew to Mexico for an impromptu ceremony. The Mexican celebration, which Pratt described at the time as having "margaritas, sunsets and beautiful settings," did not include family and friends.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Miley's dilemma: Justin or Nick?

RELATIONSHIP Miley Cyrus finds herself torn between boyfriend Justin Gaston and ex Nick Jonas, according to Gatecrasher. "I think Miley and Nick are definitely in the process of rekindling their romance," a source says, spilling that Cyrus recently got close to Jonas on a visit to his home.

"Nick's parents have this rule that when a girl is over, the door has to be open, but that didn't stop Nick and Miley from making out."

Another source claims Jonas is pushing Cyrus to end things with Gaston before they go any further. "She doesn't know how to tell Justin that they're over, but Nick is being very firm with her."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

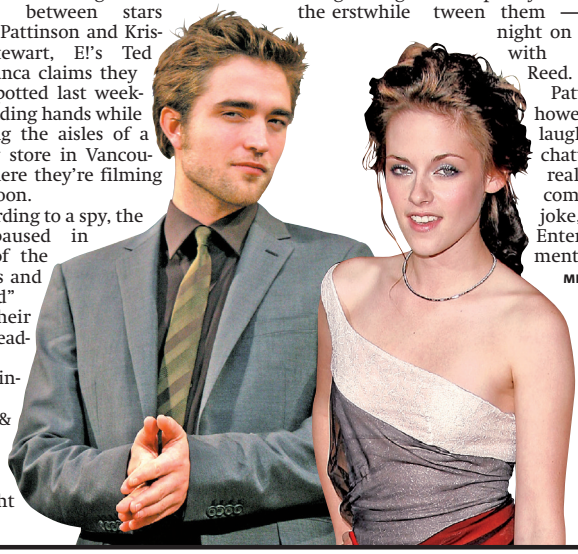
Kristen and Robert a pair?

RUMOUR Another day, another rumour seemingly designed to set the Twilight-obsessed masses aquiver, wonderwall.msn.com reports.

Days after hinting that there's "something smoldering" between stars Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart, E!'s Ted Casablanca claims they were spotted last weekend holding hands while perusing the aisles of a grocery store in Vancouver, where they're filming New Moon.

According to a spy, the pair paused in front of the tabloids and "giggled" over their own headlines, which included Life & Style's cover story, "Twilight Heartbreak: A huge fight erupts as Robert ends his affair with Nikki Reed and turns to Kristen, the girl he can't have."

Word is, once fellow shoppers noticed them and started gawking, the erstwhile Bella and Edward kept their digits to themselves. Still, the apparent grocery run wasn't the only weekend outing for the co-stars. On Saturday night, they were snapped together — with plenty of space between them — after a night on the town with castmate Reed.



GETTY IMAGES

Pattison, however, laughs off the chatter as surreal. "It becomes a joke," he told Entertainment Tonight.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Lindsay's weight loss a cry for help, friends claim

BREAKUP Lindsay Lohan has been getting dangerously thin, and her friends claim it's a cry for help after her breakup from Samantha Ronson.

"She is a self-destructive person," a source tells People magazine. "It's all part of her cry for attention. She wants Sam to see how bad she's hurting and she wants Hollywood to see her as a 'tortured artist' who is wasting away."

METRO WORLD NEWS

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